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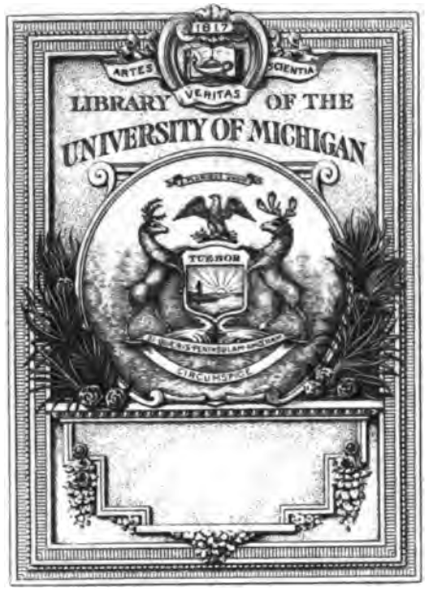
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HEAVEN:

A

VISION.

By Mr. James SCOTT,
Fellow of TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Εγω γαρ ει μην μη ωμην ηξειν πρωτον μεν παρα Θεους σοφους τε και αγαθους, επειτα και παρ' ανθρωπους τελελευτηκοτας, αμεινους των ενθαδε, ηδικουν αν, ουκ αγαναχτων τω Θανατω. PLATO.

CAMBRIDGE,
Printed by J. BENTHAM Printer to the UNIVERSITY, for W. THURLBOURN & J. WOODYER; and sold by Messrs. T. & J. MERRILL, Bookfellers in Cambridge; Messrs. DODSLEY in Pall-mall, SANDBY in Fleet-ſtreet, BEECROFT in Paternoſter Row, DOD in Ave-mary Lane, London; and the Bookfellers in Oxford, Leeds, and York.

M.DCC.LX.

A Clauſe of Mr. SEATON's Will. Dated *Oct.* 8. 1738.

I Give my Kiſlingbury Eſtate to the Univerſity of Cambridge for ever: the Rents of which ſhall be diſpoſed of yearly by the Vice-Chancellor for the time being, as he the Vice-Chancellor, the Maſter of Clare Hall, and the Greek Profeſſor for the time being, or any two of them ſhall agree. Which three perſons aforeſaid ſhall give out a Subject, which Subject ſhall for the firſt Year be one or other of the Perfections or Attributes of the Supreme Being, and ſo the ſucceeding Years, till the Subject is exhauſted; and afterwards the Subject ſhall be either Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, Purity of Heart, &c. or whatever elſe may be judged by the Vice-Chancellor, Maſter of Clare Hall, and Greek Profeſſor, to be moſt conducive to the Honour of the Supreme Being and Recommendation of Virtue. And they ſhall yearly diſpoſe of the Rent of the above Eſtate to that Maſter of Arts, whoſe Poem on the Subject given ſhall be beſt approved by them. Which Poem I ordain to be always in Engliſh, and to be printed; the expence of which ſhall be deducted out of the product of the Eſtate, and the reſidue given as a reward for the Compoſer of the Poem, or Ode, or Copy of Verſes.

WE the underwritten, do aſſign Mr. SEATON's Reward to Mr. SCOTT, M. A. for his Poem on HEAVEN; and direct the ſaid Poem to be printed.

Oct. 30. 1760.

James Burrough Vice-Chancellor.
J. Wilcox Maſter of Clare Hall.
M. Lort Greek Profeſſor.

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HEAVEN:

A

VISION.

FULL many a tedious hour, with care oppreſt,
Stretcht on my weary bed, I wakeful lay,
Sad troublous thoughts, like hornets, ſtung my breaſt,
And bruſht the dews of balmy ſleep away.
Ah! what avails, I cry'd, with painful toil,
By Virtue's ſtedfaſt ſtar the bark to guide,
Far from *ACRASIA's wily-wandring Iſle,
Where eaſe and pleaſure the frail heart divide;
If life's ſhort voyage undiſtinguiſh'd tends
To darkneſs, and the land where all forgotten ends?

* *Spenſer's* FAIRY QUEEN, Book II.

Shall

II.

Shall worth lie hid in ſorrow's baleful ſhade?
And no reward ſhall ſuff'ring Goodneſs find?
While VICE triumphant lifts her pamper'd head,
[a] Nor hears the ſteps of Vengeance cloſe behind?—
Then take me, Pow'r of Beauty, to thy arms,
And lull, ah lull to peace my troubled ſoul!
Diſcloſe, O God of Wine, thy purple charms,
I'll drown reflection in the mantling bowl!
'Gainſt wind, and tide, let Stoic dullneſs ſail,
Be mine the calmeſt ſea, and pleaſure's briſkeſt gale.

III.

Penſive I muſ'd, 'till roſe the bluſhing Morn,
And ſpread her ſaffron mantle o'er the ſkies;
When pitying MORPHEUS ſhook his opiate horn,
And ſlumbrous humours drown'd my weary'd eyes:
Yet FANCY ſtill awake, to ſooth my pain,
Sweet ſcenes of joy in livelieſt hue pourtray'd;
She call'd forth all her bright ideal train,
And pleaſing truths in myſtic dreams convey'd:
Oh fail me not, thou fair enchanting Pow'r,
At Sorrow's grim approach, and Care's diſtreſsful hour!

[a] *Antecedentem Sceleſtum deſeruit Pœna.* HOR.

Borne

IV.

Borne thro' the yielding air, methought I flew
To some more blissful clime, sequester'd far
From this frail world, that just appear'd to view,
Like the faint glimm'ring of a distant star.
Deep in the sea's encircling wave 'twas plac'd,
As gems in silver; hoary Ocean smil'd
Chear'd with the pleasing sight; and [a] from his breast
Sent his sweet children, breezes fresh and mild:
No clouds, nor darkness, veil'd the chearful scene,
Nor wintry blasts deform'd the ground's eternal green.

V.

Lo to the West a large and spacious plain,
Where meet in concert, wood, and hill, and dale;
Brighter than all that muse-led Poets feign
Of IDA's grove, and TEMPE's hallow'd vale:
Tho' PENEUS there revolves his [b] amber stream,
And suppliant DAPHNE spreads her branching arms;
Still trembling lest the Sun's prolific beam,
Too fiercely wanton, blast her virgin charms:
Would'st thou escape? Go, coy relentless maid,
Go chuse some worse retreat, some less luxurious shade!

[a] Ενθα μακαρων νασαν ωκεανιδες αυραι περιπνεουσι. PIND.
[b] Αλεκτρινον υδωρ. CALLIM. —— *Amnis purior Electro.* VIRG.

There

VI.

There blooming groves, gay ſmiling with delight,
From her fair womb ſpontaneous Nature brings;
Where percht on every bough, all richly dight
With painted plumes, ſome [a] harmleſs Siren ſings:
Pleas'd with the wild notes Zephyr flits unſeen,
And on his muſky wings the ſound conveys;
While trickling ſoft, each vary'd pauſe between,
The murm'ring riv'lets roll their ſilver baſe;
Winds, waters, birds in ſeemly ſort agree,
And am'rous ECHO blends the liquid melody.

VII.

Nor there alone was charm'd one ſcanty ſenſe:
The loaded trees ambroſial fruitage bear;
The [b] weeping ſhrubs their ſpicy gums diſpenſe,
Whoſe fragrance freſh-imbalms the buxom air;
Thouſands of flow'rs their ſilken webs unfold,
Amarants, immortal amarants ariſe,
Theſe beaming bright with [c] vegetable gold,
And theſe with azure, theſe with Tyrian dyes;
There laughing ſweetly red the roſes glow,
While from their breathing ſouls celeſtial odours flow.

[a] *Nemoris Siren, innoxia Siren.* STRADA's NIGHTIN.
[b] *Flet tamen, et tepidæ manant ex Arbore Guttæ.* OVID. MET.
[c] Ανθεμα δε χρυσου φλεγει. PIND.

But

VIII.

But hark, a voice ſoft-warbling ſtrikes my ear!—
" Behold, O man, fair VIRTUE's ample meed;
" Behold theſe radiant plains, this ſtar-girt ſphere,
" By righteous JOVE her portion are decreed!
" Mould not, ah mould not then in idle cell,
" But ſtrive theſe rapt'rous Manſions to attain;
" Here all the wiſe, the brave, the virtuous dwell,
" Eternal ages [a] free from care, and pain:
" Here in ELYSIAN ſeats, their calm abodes,
" Live in communion bleſt, [b] with heroes, and with gods!"

IX.

Eaſtward to this methought a diff'rent ſcene,
Of equal beauty, charm'd my raptur'd ſight:
Wide ſpacious lawns with ſwelling hills between,
And groves of bliſs, and gardens of delight.
There lotes, and palms their copious branches twine,
And over-arching form delicious bow'rs;
There guſh nectareous rills of dulcet wine,
And honey'd ſtreams revolve their milky ſtores;
Freſh-bleeding myrrh, and caſſia ſhed perfume,
Ananas ſwell with ſweets, and wild pomegranates bloom.

[a] Αδακρυν νεμονται αιωνα. PIND.
[b] Παρα μεν τιμιοις Θεων. Ibid.

X.

Faſt by a fount, whoſe [a]*ſpicy waters* glide
In am'rous mazes, on the velvet ground
With bluſhing flow'rs all goodly beautify'd,
A ſmiling troop of Virgins dance around;
Fairer than DELIA's ſilver-buſkin'd train,
When erſt, LADONA, by thy lilied banks,
Or cool [b]EUROTA's laurel-fringed plain,
To breathing lutes they tript in ſeemly ranks;
And fairer, CYPRIUS, than thy wanton quire,
That melt the ſoul to love, and kindle fierce deſire.

XI.

Their eyes, [c]like pearls within the ſhells conceal'd,
Beauteous and black; their lips with rubies vye;
On their fair cheeks, with white and red anneal'd,
What thouſand dimpling Smiles in ambuſh lie!
See, ſee they point to yon embow'ring ſhade,
Where cool gales fan their odorif'rous wings,
And FLORA's freſheſt, ſofteſt couch is ſpread;
The whiles ſome one this lovely ditty ſings!
Thro' all my veins what thrilling tranſport flew
To hear the nectar'd words, dropping like honey'd dew!

[a] Called by the *Arabic* Writers *Zenzebil*, and promiſed by *Mahomet* to all the Faithful.

[b] —— *In Eurotæ Ripis*
Exercet Diana Choros —— VIRG.

[c] See *Sale's Koran*, Chapter the 56th.

"Haſte,

XII.

" Haſte, gentle youth, for lo, the way is plain!
" Haſte, gentle youth, and hear the PROPHET's call!
" Theſe are the joys that true Believers gain,
" Immortal joys, that never know to pall.
" Come then, ah come thy weary limbs recline
" On ſilken beds of roſes ſweetly ſtrow'd,
" Where to thy touch compliant bows the vine,
" All faint, and lab'ring with the luſcious load;
" Where Nymphs of Paradiſe their charms reveal,
" And with their am'rous ſpoils thy greedy eyes regale!"

XIII.

She ceas'd — And molten with exceſs of joy,
Voluptuous Hope was buſy in my breaſt:
When lo, ſwift-darting from th' extremeſt ſky,
With Seraph-plumes, an Angel ſtood confeſt!
A pure immortal Crown adorn'd her head,
Of gold inwove with jewels; in her hand
The Book of Life, and Mercy was diſplay'd,
With ruddy drops of dying Martyrs ſtain'd;
Her eagle-eyes were quick, and paſſing bright,
Yet beam'd ſerene, and mild, with Heav'n's celeſtial light.

XIV.

" And O fond fooliſh man," ſhe cry'd, " forbear
" Idly to glote on forms ſo light, and vain!
" What are theſe jocund ſcenes, but empty air,
" The fleeting coinage of a phrenzy'd brain?—
" Yet ev'n in Theſe, as [a] darkly thro' a glaſs,
" Some faint, ſome glimm'ring view the eye may gain
" Of thoſe unmingled joys, that far ſurpaſs
" Whate'er of bliſs the wit of man can feign;
" Thoſe pure Delights, that flow in ſtreams divine,
" Where thy imperial Tow'rs, O heav'nly SALEM, ſhine!

XV.

" For know, my Son, that they whoſe worth is try'd,
" As gold by fire, by great and virtuous deeds,
" Soon as the carnal fetters are unty'd,
" That chain the ſoul, and ſtript theſe mortal weeds;
" Haply ſhall ſoar, in Robes of Glory clad,
" To heav'nly Manſions, bright Abodes, prepar'd
" [b]E're the foundations of the deep were laid,
" Or the firm pillars of the earth were rear'd;
" E're GOD his golden compaſſes employ'd,
" And markt this beauteous World on Chaos dark, and void.

[a] 1 Corinth. xiii. chap. 12. [b] Prov. viii. 6. 24. 25. 27, &c.

" There

XVI.

" There ſhall they live, O happy, happy ſpirits!
" There ſhall they live remov'd from all the cares,
" And thouſand ills, that feeble fleſh inherits:
" No greedy Want, nor wayward Luſt, that tears
" With vip'rous rage the breaſt from whence it ſprung,
" Their deep-emboſom'd peace ſhall e'er torment;
" But hymning ſweet, the Angel Troops among,
" Their undiſturbed lays of pure content,
" The ſmiling hours immortal ſhall employ,
" In trance of holy eaſe, or extacy of joy.

XVII.

" Then ſhall their eyes, from cloudy films ſecure,
" With lightning-glance unmeaſur'd ſpace behold;
" And all the thouſand Stars, that pave the floor
" Of Heav'n, with orient pearl, or living gold;
" Then floating thro' the boundleſs Deep of air,
" An azure ſea, like gems of richeſt hue,
" Myriads of Worlds thick-ſcatter'd ſhall appear,
" With all their bright Inhabitants to view;
" Their active minds ſhall traverſe, quick as thought,
" Creation's ample fields, the range 'twixt GOD and nought.

" And

XVIII.

" And oh what ſtreams of muſic ſweet, and clear,
" Shall drown in deep delight their raptur'd ſouls!—
" Ay me, in vain to Man's unpurged ear
" Their heav'nly Notes each tuneful planet rolls!
" Ay me, in vain with ſoftly-thrilling voice,
" [a]Thro' ev'ry land they hymn their Maker's Praiſe,
" While Choirs of young-ey'd Cherubims rejoice,
" And to their golden Harps mellifluous Lays
" Attuning, *Holy, holy, holy*, ſing,
" *O Lord, Almighty God, the Saints' eternal King!*

XIX.

" But not in vain the tuneful planets raiſe
" To pure etherial ſouls their voice divine;
" Nor yet in vain their great Creator's praiſe
" Do gladſome choirs of young-ey'd Cherubs join:
" No bleſſed Sp'rit but hears the ſacred ſong,
" And wakes his lyre melodious part to bear
" In the ſweet ſymphony; while all the throng
" Of angels, and arch-angels, nay, the ear
" Of God delighted liſtens to the ſtrains.—
" In Heav'n, and heav'n-born minds ſuch rapt'rous concord
" reigns!

[a] Pſal. xix. 3, 4.

" But

XX.

" But where, ah where can glowing tints be found
" To paint the charms of [a] SION's ſacred place,
" [b] Where CHRIST the Lamb in radiance ſits enthron'd,
" The [c] lively Image of his Father's Grace?
" O Flow'r of love! O [d] glorious Morning ſtar!
" O [e] Sun of Righteouſneſs, whoſe healing wings
" Brought life, and peace, and mercy from afar!
" From Thee the light, thou beaming Fountain, ſprings,
" That guides poor mortals in their weary way,
" Thro' black Affliction's night, to Pleaſure's endleſs day!

XXI.

" JESUS!—and didſt thou leave thy Bow'rs of joy?
" And didſt thou leave thy Father's dear embrace,
" Content with agonizing pangs to die
" For man's forlorn, rebellious, ſinful race?
" What bliſs to hear the high myſterious ſtory,
" By all the Prophets, all th' Apoſtles ſung,
" And noble army of Martyrs, crown'd with glory;
" Where bleſt, the ſix-wing'd Seraphins among,
" They drink immortal, from thy rapt'rous ſight,
" Conceiveleſs draughts of Love's ineffable delight!

[a] Heb. xii. 22. [b] Pſal. ii. 6. [c] Heb. i. 3. [d] Rev. xxii. 16. [e] Mal. iv. 2.

Lo

XXII.

" Hail ſaints of light! who once the patient train
" Of ſilent Sorrow, thro' the thorny road
" Of mis'ry toil'd, and unappall'd by pain
" With Pilgrim-feet the long, long journey trod!
" O taught by them, thou man of earth, ſuſtain
" With firm unweary'd arm the dang'rous fight!
" The [a] Prize of thy High-calling dare to gain,
" [b] Victorious Palms, and robes of ſpotleſs white;
" So in [c] the Book of Life thy name ſhall ſhine,
" And Heav'n's eternal joys, and tranſports all be thine."

XXIII.

Scarce had ſhe ſpoke, when that [d] Cherubic car,
Inſtinct with ſoul, and thoſe ſelf-moving wheels,
That whirl'd the holy Sage, from CHEBAR far,
Appear'd: — my breaſt the ruſhing impulſe feels!
I ſee, I ſee thy glitt'ring turrets riſe,
Celeſtial SALEM, all of [e] lucid gold,
Inlaid with gems of thouſand, thouſand dyes!
And lo, the everlaſting gates unfold
Their [f] doors of pearl, and o'er my aching ſight
Full tides of glory flow, and ſtreams of living light!

[a] Phil. iii. 14. [b] Rev. vii. 9. [c] Rev. iii. 5. [d] Ezek. i. [e] Rev. xxi. 18, 19. [f] Rev. xxi. 21.

XXIV.

Of Light ſurpaſſing far thy glimm'ring ray,
(More bright, more clear, more glorious, more divine)
Tho' dreſt by thee, [a] O golden Eye of Day,
In gaudy robes the ſparkling diamonds ſhine;
Tho' yon fair Moon to thee her luſtre owes,
Gilding with borrow'd light the mountain's brow;
And IRIS ſteals from thee each tint, that glows
In the gay forehead of the ſhow'ry Bow:
Faint is thy feeble blaze, O beauteous Sun!
Such peerleſs beams appear from Truth's eternal throne.

XXV.

See thro' the ſtreets, [b] like liquid jaſper clear,
The Fount of life in mazy error flows!
Thro' the bright [c] Cryſtal ſands of gold appear,
And heaps of pearly grain; while blooming grows,
On either bank of dainty flow'rs profuſe,
The Tree of Life ſuperior o'er the reſt,
Whoſe teeming branches nectar'd fruits produce:
[d] Twelve various fruits of ſweetly-vary'd taſte,
From ev'ry leaf [e] ſalubrious dews exhale,
And pure elixirs breathe in ev'ry balmy gale.

[a] Ω χρυσεας αμερας βλεφαρον. SOPH.
[b] Rev. xxi. 11. [c] Ibid. [d] Rev. xxii. 2. [e] Ibid.

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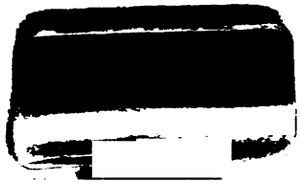
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